

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-22, 25-28, 31-34, and 37-39 are pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Christie et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,157,996 ("Christie"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-22, 25-28, 31-34, and 37-39 recites a combination of features not taught or suggested in the cited art. For example, claim 1 recites a combination of features including: "a mask comprising a plurality of indications, wherein each of the plurality of indications corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of flags; and an execution core ... configured, in response to a system call instruction, to selectively update a given flag of the plurality of flags responsive to a respective indication of the plurality of indications in the mask".

The Office Action alleges that Christie teaches the mask as the predicate update field 626 in the MSR 524 shown in Fig. 6 and refers to Christie col. 10, lines 44-50. However, Christie's description of the predicate update field 626 generally refers to the predicate update field controlling whether or not the PFLAG register 622 is updated "if predicated update field 626 is set appropriately" (Christie, col. 10, lines 45-46). Christie fails to be specific as to the content of the predicate update field, with the following exception: "both the conditional execution field 602 and the predicated update field 626 of MSR 524 comprise a 1 bit field" (Christie, col. 10, lines 56-58). Neither the general description of the predicated update field 626, nor the example of the field being one bit, teach or suggest "a mask comprising a plurality of indications, wherein each of the plurality of indications corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of flags" as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Christie's predicated update field 626 does not teach or suggest "an execution core ... configured, in response to a system call instruction, to selectively update a given flag of the plurality of flags responsive to a respective indication of the plurality of indications in the mask". A one-bit predicated update field could only control

whether or not the PFLAGS register is updated as a whole, not the selective update of various flags in the PFLAGS register.

The Office Action also refers to Fig. 7, and various combinations of the x_3 , x_2 , and x_1 bits when $p=1$ specifying various PFLAG bits CC1-CC7. However, the x_3 , x_2 , x_1 , and p bits are included in the prefix byte of the instruction (see top of Fig. 7). Furthermore, the x_3 , x_2 , and x_1 bits are not a mask "comprising a plurality of indications, wherein each of the plurality of indications corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of flags". Rather, encoded values of the x_3 , x_2 , and x_1 bits identify a given PFLAG bit CC1-CC7 to control conditional execution of the instruction that includes the prefix byte. Additionally, the Office Action alleges that the system call instruction is an inherent OS service such as reading or writing a flag register. Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is no such "inherent OS service" in Christie. Christie appears to teach reading and writing the flags register for a given instruction merely by executing that instruction.

For at least the above stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 2-8, being dependent from claim 1, are also patentable over the cited art for at least the above stated reasons. Claims 2-8 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claim 9 recites a combination of features including: "a mask comprising a plurality of indications, wherein each of the plurality of indications corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of flags; and a processor ... configured, in response to a system call instruction, to selectively update a given flag of the plurality of flags responsive to a respective indication of the plurality of indications in the mask". The teachings of Christie, highlighted above with respect to claim 1, are also alleged to teach the features of claim 9. Applicant respectfully submits that Christie does not teach or suggest the above highlighted features of claim 9, either. Accordingly, claim 9 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 10-16, being dependent from claim 9, are also patentable over the cited art for at least the above stated reasons. Claims 10-16 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claim 17 recites a combination of features including: "selectively updating a given flag of a plurality of flags responsive to a corresponding indication in a mask, wherein the mask comprises a plurality of indications, and wherein each of the plurality of indications corresponds to a respective flag of the plurality of flags and indicates whether or not the respective flag is updated in response to the system call instruction". The teachings of Christie, highlighted above with respect to claim 1, are also alleged to teach the features of claim 17. Applicant respectfully submits that Christie does not teach or suggest the above highlighted features of claim 17, either. Accordingly, claim 17 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 18-21, being dependent from claim 17, are also patentable over the cited art for at least the above stated reasons. Claims 18-21 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claim 22 recites a combination of features including: "a register configured to store a value that defines which flags of a plurality of flags are to be cleared in response to a system call instruction and which flags of the plurality of flags are to be preserved in response to the system call instruction; and an execution core ... configured, in response to the system call instruction, to clear one or more selected flags of a plurality of flags and preserve one or more other flags of the plurality of flags responsive to the value in the register".

The Office Action alleges that Christie teaches the value in the register, as recited in claim 22, again citing the predicate update field 626 in the MSR 524 shown in Fig. 6 and referring to Christie col. 10, lines 44-50. However, Christie's description of the predicate update field 626 generally refers to the predicate update field controlling whether or not the PFLAG register 622 is updated "if predicated update field 626 is set appropriately" (Christie, col. 10, lines 45-46). Christie fails to be specific as to the content of the predicate update field, with the following exception: "both the conditional execution field 602 and the predicated update field 626 of MSR 524 comprise a 1 bit field" (Christie, col. 10, lines 56-58). Neither the general description of the predicated update field 626 determine whether or not the PFLAG register 622 is updated as a whole,

nor the example of the field being one bit, teach or suggest "a value that defines which flags of a plurality of flags are to be cleared in response to a system call instruction and which flags of the plurality of flags are to be preserved in response to the system call instruction" as recited in claim 22.

Furthermore, Christie's predicated update field 626 does not teach or suggest " an execution core ... configured, in response to the system call instruction, to clear one or more selected flags of a plurality of flags and preserve one or more other flags". A one-bit predicated update field could only control whether or not the PFLAGS register is updated as a whole, not the clearing of some flags and the preserving of other flags.

The Office Action also refers to Fig. 7, and various combinations of the x_3 , x_2 , and x_1 bits when $p=1$ specifying various PFLAG bits CC1-CC7. However, the x_3 , x_2 , x_1 , and p bits are included in the prefix byte of the instruction (see top of Fig. 7). Furthermore, the x_3 , x_2 , and x_1 bits are not a mask "a value that defines which flags of a plurality of flags are to be cleared in response to a system call instruction and which flags of the plurality of flags are to be preserved in response to the system call instruction". Rather, encoded values of the x_3 , x_2 , and x_1 bits identify a given PFLAG bit CC1-CC7 to control conditional execution of the instruction that includes the prefix byte. Additionally, the Office Action alleges that the system call instruction is an inherent OS service such as reading or writing a flag register. Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is no such "inherent OS service" in Christie. Christie appears to teach reading and writing the flags register for a given instruction merely by executing that instruction.

For at least the above stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 25-27, being dependent from claim 22, are also patentable over the cited art for at least the above stated reasons. Claims 25-27 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claim 28 recites a combination of features including: "a storage location configured to store a value that defines which flags of a plurality of flags are to be cleared

in response to a system call instruction and which flags of the plurality of flags are to be preserved in response to the system call instruction; and a processor coupled to the storage location, wherein the processor is configured, in response to the system call instruction, to clear one or more selected flags of a plurality of flags and preserve one or more other flags of the plurality of flags responsive to the value in the storage location". The teachings of Christie, highlighted above with respect to claim 22, are also alleged to teach the features of claim 28. Applicant respectfully submits that Christie does not teach or suggest the above highlighted features of claim 28, either. Accordingly, claim 28 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 31-33, being dependent from claim 28, are also patentable over the cited art for at least the above stated reasons. Claims 31-33 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

Claim 34 recites a combination of features including: "A computer accessible medium storing a plurality of instructions which, when executed in response to a system call instruction, clear one or more selected flags of a plurality of flags and preserve one or more other flags of the plurality of flags responsive to a value in a storage location, wherein the value defines which flags of the plurality of flags are to be cleared in response to a system call instruction and which flags of the plurality of flags are to be preserved in response to the system call instruction". The teachings of Christie, highlighted above with respect to claim 22, are also alleged to teach the features of claim 34. Applicant respectfully submits that Christie does not teach or suggest the above highlighted features of claim 34, either. Additionally, the Office Action alleges that the plurality of instructions recited in claim 34 are instructions in an inherent OS service such as reading or writing a flag register. Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is no such "inherent OS service" in Christie. Christie appears to teach reading and writing the flags register for a given instruction merely by executing that instruction. Thus, there is no inherent teaching of "a plurality of instructions ... executed in response to a system call instruction" as recited in claim 34.

Accordingly, claim 34 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 37-39, being dependent from claim 34, are also patentable over the cited art for at least the above

stated reasons. Claims 37-39 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-78200/LJM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Please debit the above deposit account in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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